

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION URGING ACTION IN THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE TO UPHOLD THE VALUES OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

- WHEREAS,** Our system of governance works best when everybody has access to information, pathways to advocacy, and can play a centralized role in all decision-making spaces. Government transparency plays a major role in ensuring that people are not viewed as obstacles to the work; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Despite popular support from constituents and legislators, bills such as the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act, Safe Communities Act, comprehensive climate crisis legislation, same day voter registration, measures against wage theft, efforts to lower the voting age, and progressive taxation have all not passed the Massachusetts legislature for decades largely due to an inaccessible process that keeps the people out; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts House of Representatives recently voted on House Bill 3930, for the adoption of permanent House Rules for the 192nd General Court governing the 2021-2022 legislative sessions, during which amendments to increase transparency---such as a movement to make committee votes public and to provide sufficient time to read legislation between the introduction and the passage of a bill---were voted down; *and*
- WHEREAS,** As advocates continue to push for greater transparency measures in the State House, this is an opportunity for the Boston City Council to reflect on its transparency measures and to explore ways to expand access to government information and civic engagement opportunities in all communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** We need policies, procedures, protocols, and programming that prioritize the voices of the people over the voices of a small number of the same usual suspects and wealthy individuals; *and*
- WHEREAS,** All levels of government need to continue to push for transparency and accessibility measures in all forms of decision-making and we as a Boston City Council have a moral obligation to continue to push our statehouse colleagues to

create pathways to civic engagement and information justice; ***NOW  
THEREFORE BE IT***

***RESOLVED:*** that the Boston City Council urges the Massachusetts State Legislature to reconsider efforts to expand transparency and information justice through its decision-making; ***AND BE IT  
FURTHER***

***RESOLVED:*** That the Boston City Council continue to explore ways to prioritize information justice and uplift the voices of the people in all levels of decision-making.

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